

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1. (Currently Amended): In a method for optical information recording by patternwise irradiating a thin photoresponsive film of a polymeric compound containing an azobenzene moiety, said polymeric compound having a number-average molecular weight in the range from 3,000 to 10,000, with a first light beam falling in a first irradiation spot on the polymeric thin film to effect a morphological change of the polymeric thin film, the improvement which comprises simultaneously irradiating the polymeric thin film patternwise with a second light beam of substantially the same wavelength as the first light beam falling in a second irradiation spot, the diameter of the second irradiation spot being larger than the diameter of the first irradiation spot and the second irradiation spot enveloping the first irradiation spot, wherein the irradiance by the second light beam is in the range from 10% to 100% of the irradiance by the first light beam, with the proviso that said first and second light beams do not form a hologram or a diffraction grating.

Claims 2-5. (Cancelled)